(2) that the springs in the *chiras* should, in no way, be interfered with, so that they may continue to replenish the water supply; and

(3) that the sanction of the Tahsildars should not be insisted on for putting up such temporary bunds as are sanctioned by custom across rivers and canals and that no *poramboke* proceedings should be started by Tahsildars in such cases.

It is found that many of these *chiras* have already been registered. The registry of these *chiras* was a very great mistake. Now, if we want to restore them, we have to pay very heavy compensation. They have been improved, and cocoanut, arecanut and many other fruit-bearing trees have been planted thereon.

Member.—I do not refer to the old registries.

Dewan.—Orders have already been issued that no such *chiras* should be registered in future and that cases of encroachments on them should be detected and dealt with under the Land Conservancy Regulation. I do want the revenue officers to take prompt action in preventing such encroachments. If you will give me instances, I will have enquiries made. These encroachments must be prevented and the *chiras* must be preserved.

In regard to grazing grounds, you have 150 square miles of reserved forests in the taluk, while the area of the taluk itself is not more than 300 square miles. More than one-half of it is thus forest. These forests are not closed for grazing or for the removal of green manure. At the rate of 3 acres per head of cattle, you can graze a very large number of cattle in them. You can get free passes so long as the cattle are indegenous. You can also remove green manure from these forests. I do not see what your difficulties are in regard to grazing and green manure.

49. Agricultural needs of Shencottah.

Mr. Srinivasakam Chenturanatha Pillai (Member, Shencottah Taluk) made the following suggestions in regard to the agricultural needs of the Shencottah taluk.

Firstly, in regard to irrigational facilities, the western *pakuthies* of the Shencottah taluk did not contain any major tanks that could be utilised for purposes of irrigation. The main sources of water supply were the Kundar and the Hanumannadi streams which got dried up soon after the rains. To remove the water scarcity of that part of the taluk, the Member suggested that two major tanks might be constructed so as to hold the water in the above streams. Those two tanks might rescue nearly 300 acres of wet land from drought and could convert nearly 800 acres of single-crop wet lands into double-crop lands and about 900 acres of dry lands into wet.

As regards the eastern part of the taluk, the Member said that, although it contained three major tanks and some minor tanks, only one crop could be raised now from the wet lands served by them, as those tanks had long been in disrepair. The Member suggested that, instead of repair works to such tanks being carried out through contractors, the agriculturists interested might themselves be entrusted with such works.

Secondly, in the matter of green manure, the Member requested that orders might be issued to the Forest Department to allow agriculturists to gather green manure from the adjoining reserves. In that connection, he also requested that cattle belonging to agriculturists be might allowed to graze freely in the reserves.

The third requirement was the introduction of improved methods of agriculture. It was suggested that good private lands might be taken on lease by the Department of Agriculture and cultivated on up-to-date lines so that agriculturists might be educated in improved methods of cultivation. The Member also complained that the local agricultural farm was not situated at a central and convenient spot.

The Member finally suggested the formation of an Irrigation Board consisting of the local D. P. W. Sub-Divisional Officer, the Agricultural Inspector and the prominent agriculturists of each village, for the purpose of carrying out repairs to tanks and other matters relating to irrigation.

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Dewan's reply.—You have spoken about several tanks and streams. Your suggestions will be forwarded to the Chief Engineer and he will see what can be done in the matter.

You say that the agricultural farm is located in a corner of your taluk. It is not so. It is situated within a mile of the main road from Shencottah to Quilon; it is in the centre of the taluk. If the people do not visit the farm as often as they should, it is not the fault of the Government; it is the fault of the people. We have instructed the Inspector to have wet cultivation also demonstrated in the farm. The Inspector is also going from place to place and instructing the people on improved methods of agriculture by means of demonstration on their own lands. Government have asked the Director of Agriculture to formulate a scheme for popularising agricultural farms by holding annual exhibitions therein, to which the people living in the neighbourhood may be invited to go with the best specimens of their own agricultural products and at which prices may be given to the best specimens.

50. Some wants of the land-holders of Shencottah taluk.

Mr. K. Sankaranarayana Aiyar B. A. (Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah) said that, subsequent to the passing of the Rules under the Irrigation Regulation in 1911, the minor irrigation works in the Shencottah taluk had been neglected, and urged the necessity of (1) ordering the immediate transfer of all minor irrigation works in the taluk to the charge of the local Tahsildar ; (2) sanctioning a separate annual allotment for those works ; and (3) appointing an officer not below the rank of a sub-overseer in the D. P. W. to assist the Tahsildar as *exofficio* irrigation officer in the execution of such works.

He next prayed that a committee consisting of the Tahsildar of the taluk and the D. P. W. Sub-division Officer, with two or three agriculturists in each *pakuthi* or group of *pakuthies* to assist them, be appointed to institute an enquiry into the reckless registration of all available space within the foreshore of the existing tanks for wet cultivation that had now been going on for the past several years.

He then pointed out that, although Shencottah shared the benefit of remissions on account of failure of crop along with the five taluks of the old Padmanabhapuram Division and certain taluks of the Trivandrum Division, it was denied that concession in regard to *tharisu* or fallow remission, and said that the reasons which held good for singling out certain *pakuthies* of Tovala and Agastisvaram for such remission applied with greater force to the *pakuthies* of Ayikudi, Klankad and Sampurvadakara. He prayed that such of the *pakuthies* in the taluk as deserved the benefit of fallow remission might be carefully selected and their names added to schedule II of the Remission Rules.

He next spoke on the subject of fodder and fuel reserves. He prayed that the tract of forest land known as "Pasukkada Theri" in the Puliyara Reserve near Kannupulli Chowkey and the hill-slope lying outside the boundary of that reserve might be set apart for cattle grazing, and urged that it should, on no account, be assigned for other purposes. He pointed out that there were no unreserved forest lands for extracting fuel, all such lands having been already brought under registry, and suggested that a portion of the reserved forest might be disafforested and converted into a fuel reserve, so that the people might cut and remove fuel from that reserve on obtaining passes from the Forest Department. If that was not feasible, the Member suggested that a fuel depôt might be established at Shencottah.

The Member's next representation was that the expression "temporarily settled land under direct engagement with the Government" in Article 1 of Schedule II of the Court Fees Regulation was misconstrued by the taluk authorities who thought that it referred to lands held on *kuthakapottom*. In the result, while the fee chargeable on an application or a petition when presented to any officer of the Land Revenue Department by a person holding temporarily settled land under direct engagement with the Government and when the subject matter of the application or petition related exclusively to such engagement was 2 chakrams according to Article 1

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